EXHIBIT A

(for Legal Dept. use only)
ID No: P01-3593
Date Received: [redacted]

COMPAQ

INVENTION DISCLOSURE

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST AND DIRECTION OF AN ATTORNEY
RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO DIANE STRONG VIA E-MAIL TO DIANE.STRONG@COMPAQ.COM

1. **DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF INVENTION:** Method for proliferating rack name[redacted]

2. **INVENTOR (S):** More than two? ☒ Yes ☐ No (If more than two, use last page.)

A.

Last Name	Given First Name	Nickname (if any)	Middle Initial/Name
Autor	Jeff		S
Home Street Address		Home Phone	Pager Number
City	State	Zip	Citizenship
Work Phone	Work Fax	Mail Code	Employee #
Name of Supervisor		Name of Employer (if NOT an employee of Compaq)	

B.

Last Name	Given First Name	Nickname (if any)	Middle Initial/Name
Cartes	Andrew		C
Home Street Address		Home Phone	Pager Number
City	State	Zip	Citizenship
Work Phone	Work Fax	Mail Code	Employee #
Name of Supervisor		Name of Employer (if NOT an employee of Compaq)	

ADDITIONAL INVENTORS:

C.

Last Name	Given First Name	Nickname (if any)	Middle Initial/Name
Jones	Kevin		Mark
Home Street Address		Home Phone	Pager Number
City	State	Zip	Citizenship
Work Phone	Work Fax	Mail Code	Employee #
Name of Supervisor		Name of Employer (if NOT an employee of Compaq)	

D.

Last Name	Given First Name	Nickname (if any)	Middle Initial/Name
Home Street Address		Home Phone	Pager Number
City	State	Zip	Citizenship
Work Phone	Work Fax	Mail Code	Employee #
Name of Supervisor		Name of Employer (if NOT an employee of Compaq)	

E.

Last Name	Given First Name	Nickname (if any)	Middle Initial/Name

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Home Street Address		Home Phone	Pager Number
City	State	Zip	Citizenship
Work Phone	Work Fax	Mail Code	Employee #
Name of Supervisor		Name of Employer (If NOT an employee of Compaq)	

3. CONCEPTION OF INVENTION:

A. When did you first think of this invention? [redacted]

B. Date of first written description? [redacted]

C. Please attach the first written description. (If submitting in electronic format, please scan all attachments and send).

D. If you can not send the first written description, please explain why and state where it can be found. The first written description was on a whiteboard and transferred to the Personal Ledger Book of Andrew Cartes

E. Please list the name of others in Compaq to whom you've described the invention:

4. IMPLEMENTING THE INVENTION

A. Has the invention been implemented? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know
(Implementations can include physical prototypes, software, models, and simulations).

B. If implemented, please do not destroy, alter, or modify the implementation(s) without the authorization of the Compaq Legal Department, and answer the following questions for each implementation.

i. When was it implemented? [redacted]
ii. Where is the implementation now? (Attach or scan and send photograph, if possible)
iii. Has the implementation been tested? Yes
iv. If so, was the test successful? Yes

5. USE OR SALE OF INVENTION:

A. Has this been or will this be incorporated into a Compaq product? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If so, for each such product identify:

i. When was it or will it be incorporated into the product? [redacted]
ii. Code name:
iii. Street name:

B. Has the invention been offered for sale or sold to anyone (e.g. an end user, vendor, reseller, partner, etc.)
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know

i. If so, when:
ii. If so, to whom (name of company or individual):

C. If you don't know whether the invention has been offered for sale or sold, please provide the name of the best person to contact to determine when the invention has been or will be offered for sale or sold:

NOTE: Please inform Compaq Legal immediately if, in the future, any of your answers under this Section 5 change so that we have ample opportunity to protect the invention within the time limits set out by law.

6. DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION TO OTHERS

A. Has a disclosure of the invention been made to any person(s) who is **NOT** a Compaq employee (including contractor, temporary, vendor, reseller, or partner and including conference presentations or journal articles)?
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know

B. If a disclosure was made, when was it made? _____

C. To whom was the disclosure made? _____

D. Was the disclosure made under an obligation of confidence? (e.g. Nondisclosure Agreement)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

7. DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION (continue on extra sheets as necessary)

A. To what type of technology does your invention relate? (Check all that apply)

CPU Technologies
- ☐ Keyboard/Mouse/Other Input Device
- ☐ Graphics
- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Audio
- ☐ Memory
- ☐ Buses (ISA, EISA, PCI, AGP, other)
- ☐ Power Supplies/Batteries
- ☐ Other: _____

Communications Technologies
- ☐ Network Interface Card
- ☐ Hubs/Concentrators
- ☐ Routers
- ☐ Switches
- ☐ Modems
- ☐ Remote Access
- ☐ Other: _____

Peripherals Technologies
- ☐ Monitors/Screens
- ☐ CD-ROM
- ☐ DVD
- ☐ Tape Drives
- ☐ Disk Storage Systems
- ☐ Disk Controllers
- ☐ Printers
- ☐ Storage
- ☐ Other: _____

Feature/Software Technologies
- ☐ Mulitprocessor
- ☒ Fault Tolerance
- ☐ Remote Control
- ☐ Power Management
- ☐ Security
- ☒ Intelligent Manageability
- ☐ Smartstart
- ☒ Insight Manager
- ☐ Other _____

Other
- ☐ Manufacturing Processes
- ☐ Mechanical (functional)
- ☐ Mechanical (ornamental)
- ☐ PC/TV
- ☒ Racks
- ☐ Other: _____

B. Describe the general subject matter of the invention. This mechanism allows a rack name to proliferate to all members in the rack, while providing for: rack name conflicts (multiple rack members have different names); unassigned rack names (any rack member with a name shares it with others provided there are no known conflicts); security mechanism to prevent name proliferation between systems that are not intended to share properties, for example, where an ISP leases rack equipment to different customers; notification when a rack name conflict is detected.

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C. Describe the particular problem faced by those working in the subject matter area. Datacenters that contain numerous systems need mechanisms to identify the system, whether by purpose, owner, function, location, or another mechanism suitable to the datacenter. This mechanism allows a logical rack name to proliferate through all components within the rack automatically, including when equipment is added to an existing rack, and when a rack name is assigned. This mechanism uses rack infrastructure rather than mechanisms within an OS to establish rack name.

D. Describe the old method(s) of performing the functions of the invention. Manually assign server information. However, when the server is relocated, the information must be reassigned. This method only applied to equipment that was capable of storing rack data, otherwise, labels were needed. Additionally, rack information is difficult to share between different operating systems.

E. Why is the invention better than these old approaches? The old approaches were extremely manual, OS centric, prone to error due to mislabeling, Conflicts are not identified, and the old approach was not automatic. The new mechanism is automatic, rack-centric rather than OS-centric, identifies conflicts, and includes provisions for security.

F. Attach at least one drawing or sketch of the invention if available.
(Attach or scan and send drawing or sketch in a separate document)

G. Describe the invention, how it is used, and how it operates. The mechanism is an algorithm distributed among management processors integrated with system chassis, in this implementation, the [redacted] processor in the [redacted] chassis and the [redacted] processor in the [redacted] chassis. The mechanism is defined in the attachment "Invention drawing - [redacted] Name Propagation.doc".

H. Describe the construction and structure of the preferred implementation of the invention. The invention is implemented as an algorithm running on management processors [redacted] that are part of the various chassis installed in the rack. The algorithm is invoked a rack chassis is told to record the rack name and runs in a decentralized mode, providing robustness and convenience.

I. Is the invention designed to conform or enhance any industry standard?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Don't Know
If so, what industry standard? _____

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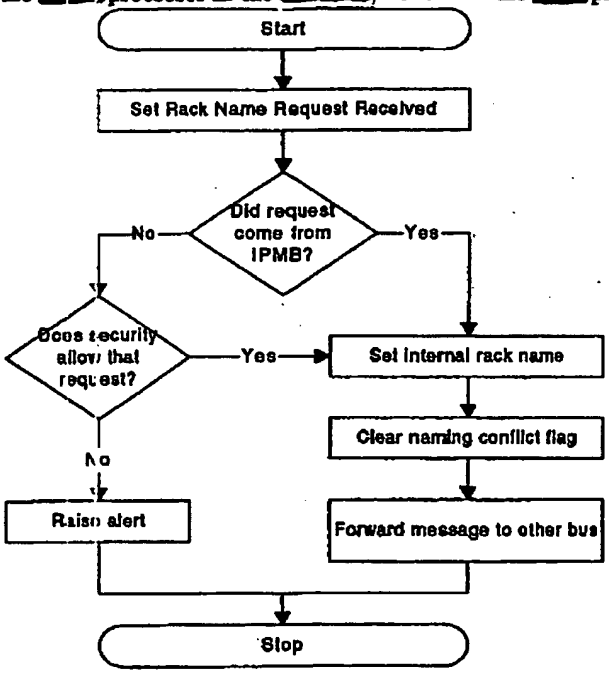
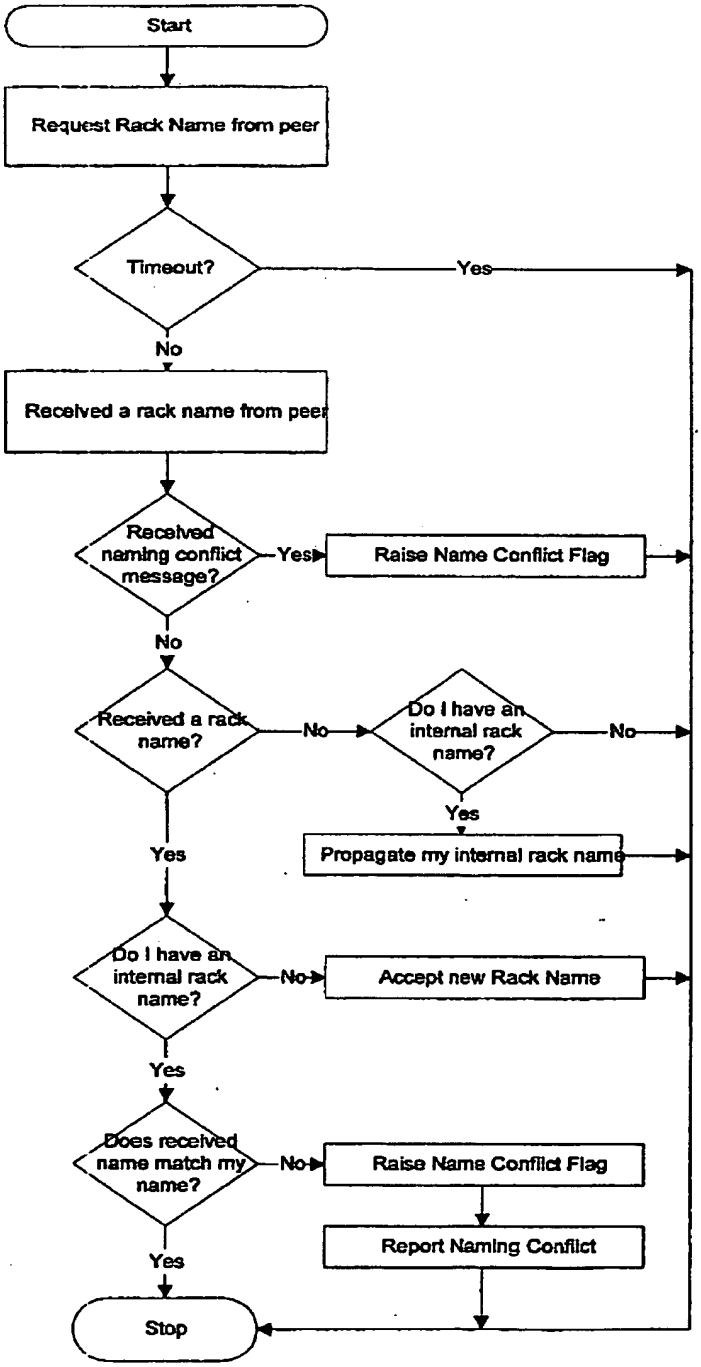
[redacted]
Kevin Jones; Jeff Autor; Andrew Cartes
Compaq Computer Corporation
[redacted]

The mechanism is an algorithm distributed among management processors integrated with system chassis, in this implementation, the [redacted] processor in the [redacted] chassis and the [redacted] processor in the [redacted] chassis. The mechanism is defined as follows:



[redacted]
Kevin Jones, Andrew Cartes, Jeff Autor
Compaq Computer Corporation
[redacted]

The mechanism is an algorithm distributed among management processors integrated with system chassis, in this implementation, the [redacted] processor in the [redacted] chassis and the [redacted] processor in the [redacted] chassis. The mechanism is defined as follows: